

Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting

Fletcher Town Offices

June 21, 2021

Select Board: Jon Bondy, Rich Bidwell, Bruce Douglas, Matt Gillilan, Matt Swartz

Attendees: David Clark, Joe Crepeau, Michelle Frennier, Eva Gillilan, Pam Jedlicka, Ed Lidster, Pat Saylor, Thomas Saylor, Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk), Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk), Rachael Wilson (Secretary).

1. Call to order: 7:15pm
2. Accounts Payable and Payroll Orders: The Select Board reviewed and signed. Ed explained that the charge for the garage door at the town garage was for a recoil spring that broke and the spring for the other door was replaced as well because it was aging.
3. Dog bite: Matt Swartz asked Chip to attend tonight's meeting, but he could not attend because of work. Chip confirmed that he vaccinated and registered the dog that bit Mike. The second dog has an appointment to be vaccinated and once complete, Chip will register the dog. Chip explained that the third dog is not his, Matt Swartz told Chip that he is considered the owner if the dog is in his possession, and he is responsible for the registration and vaccination. Matt Swartz explained that if the dog resides in a different town, Chip should still be able to provide the records. Chip did not tell Matt Swartz when the second dog's appointment is, but he will reach out to Chip for that date. Matt Swartz will also ask Chip if he still has possession of the third dog and if so, when it is going to be vaccinated and registered if still in town. Matt Swartz will ask Chip to respond within 48 hours. At the last meeting Dave recommended the dog ordinance be updated. Dave will provide recommendations for revisions to the Select Board.
4. Metcalf Pond:
 - a. Beavers: Ed explained that they laid drainage tile and submerged piping in the culvert. This provided constant water flow and seems like it deterred the beavers from plugging the culvert. Ed would like to try about 4-5 more 4" perforated pipes at The Ledges (about 1500' downstream from the culvert at the outlet) to encourage water flow and deter the beavers. Jon encouraged Ed and Rich to work together on this project.
 - b. Culvert/Stormwater Grant: The town was awarding the grant for a 4' culvert. Bruce explained that in 2019 the town asked the engineer who reviews projects to size the culvert, but he didn't end up sizing it. There was a hydrologic study completed about 2004/2005 that said a box culvert was needed. Bruce said the people who spoke with at the state were confused as to why the town was awarded the grant since that grant doesn't typically apply to perennial streams. Bruce is wondering if part of the grant could be used for a box culvert. The state is willing to come for a site visit. Matt Gillilan said that Alan May was in town on 6/11/2021 and he said the town either completes the project as the grant is written or the town will lose the grant. Alan didn't see any issues with the 4' culvert and the town should proceed. Alan said if he hears something that says the town should stop that Alan would let us know. Bruce recommends getting something in writing from Alan. Rich expressed concern that if we wait to put in the 4' culvert and the current one fails it puts the town at risk. Considering there is a 1-2 year process to get a box culvert in, this could pose a bigger issue. Matt Gillilan pointed out that the 3' culvert didn't fail during the Halloween storm (though it is not in great condition). The 4' culvert would be an upgrade. Matt Gillilan is happy to send Alan an email to get written confirmation. Bruce said that though these grants typically don't

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- b. The board approved Aimee to buy the microphone, tripod, camera and cable for hybrid meetings.
 - c. Annual maintenance: Rich mentioned that the outside of the town office needs to be pressure washed. Rich wondered if Brenda or the Road Crew could do it. Jon pointed out that it would be best not to tie up the Road Crew with pressure washing if Brenda can borrow the town's equipment and do it. Rich will contact Brenda.
 - d. Speed limits: Rich spoke with a state police officer and she asked what the speed limits were in town. She said she couldn't ticket anyone if the speeds weren't clear. The ordinance addresses dirt roads, but not paved roads. Matt Gillilan said the ordinance needs updating to reflect speeds on paved roads. Rich will come up with a proposal.
7. Public Comment: Pat Saylor owns the road frontage across from the Metcalf Pond beach area. A no parking sign might help if it is in the middle of the area. If the board is going to visit the pond, Pat would like join. Rich and Jon will go down to the area and draw up a map that will make future discussions easier.
8. Adjournment: 8:59pm
9. To do list:
- a. Matt Swartz:
 - i. Contact Chip about the following:
 1. When is his other dog's vaccination appointment?
 2. When does his plan to register his other dog?
 3. Does Chip still have possession of the third dog and if so, when it is going to be vaccinated and registered?
 4. Ask Chip to respond to the above questions within 48 hours.
 5. Purchase tripod, camera and cable or email Aimee the information on what to purchase.
 - b. David Clark:
 - i. Provide the Select Board with his recommended revisions for the dog ordinance.
 - c. Rich Bidwell:
 - i. Work with Ed to lay more piping in the necessary areas around/in Metcalf Pond.
 - ii. Contact Brenda about pressure washing the town office.
 - iii. Come up with a proposal for speed limit ordinance revision.
 - d. Bruce:
 - i. Set up a site visit (Metcalf Pond) with the state.
 - ii. Work with Karrie and Aimee to find out what residents will have additional costs for connecting to broadband and will research the potential to use ARPA funds for broadband.
 - e. Jon:
 - i. Go to the pond with Rich and draw up a map.

Post meeting emails:

The Select Board received the following emails after the meeting

1. Hello,

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I was struggling with audio and had to call into the meeting tonight. I stuck it out to the end to make a comment but I wasn't able to unmute my line and no one asked if any non-board people on the line wanted to say anything before the meeting ended. I understand from Aimee that tonight was a first go of the zoom and in person setup, I fully understand everyone was doing their best to make it work. I would like to add a comment.

With regards to the grant that MAY be available to help with broadband installation for residents who are a distance from the road or in developments with conduit issues, I would like to see the distance from the residence to the last pole with the necessary cap be the consideration in the evaluation of budget needs suggested by John as a next step. This distance could be substantially further than just the distance of the residence to the road, causing the installation to be cost prohibitive to the home owner and therefore not an equal opportunity for the service.

I understand this is in the early stages of discovery with regards to grant funding and its possible use for closing the broadband gap for those who will have more difficult or costly installation needs. I appreciate the direction this is going and the efforts to scope a potential budget number it would take to propose the use of monies for this purpose.

Definitely much easier to participate in the Zoom meetings even with technical difficulties. Greatly appreciate the effort to continue this option, I likely wouldn't be able to attend otherwise.

Best,

Michelle

2. Good evening. I was a bit disappointed that there was no time allotted tonight for public comments. By the time I realized I should try to raise my hand the meeting was disconnected.

While they are fresh in my mind, I thought I'd share them now:

- As a town resident who has listened in on most of the SB meetings for the past year and 3 months, lately a lot of time has been devoted to various issues involving Metcalf Pond. You are not going to be able to please everyone regarding launching boats at the beach or the parking problems which appear to be a direct result of using watercraft there. If state law and regulations allow, I agree with Jon about closing off access. People are not being considerate, are not adhering to guidelines on the signage and the problems are an ongoing issue for the SB to manage. It is not an unreasonable expectation for pond residents to work with neighbors who have an access point on their private property, considering that if access is blocked to the public, they will virtually have a private pond. I think horses swimming in the pond should be prohibited but I think swimming should still be permitted. Many people dogs and may not

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consider that they may evacuate in the water, but I'm not sure prohibiting dogs is the way to go. Again, maybe looking to state laws and regs might provide some guidance.

- Regarding vehicles speeding in town: I was at the last town meeting where voters declined to fund contracting a sheriff to patrol the roads and issue tickets. If I recall, the cost was approx. \$25K for 8 hours per week. It was a completely unfair and insulting characterization to say that the vote not to fund was a statement that 'we don't care about your kids.' The SB suggested that a car would be stationed at or near the problem areas and that 'real' tickets would not be issued. Having a stationary patrol car in the same place every day is only going to solve speed issues when the car is sitting there. Such patrols have to be random, observation of problem areas surreptitious and full-fine speeding tickets issued (not a "Fletcher ticket") and many voters spoke on this matter before declining to fund the sheriff's patrol. I would ask what happened to the exploration of other measures? Speed bumps, illuminated 'this is your speed now' signs, school zone signs, etc. What about volunteer crossing guards at the beginning and end of each school day? Someone may have said speed bumps weren't a possibility due to the roads belonging to the state, but I'd have to look at my notes.

Thank you for considering my comments. Since we were cut off, I would like them to be made part of the SB meeting minutes.

Sincerely,

Pam Jedlicka

Jon Bondy

Matt Gillilan

Rich Bidwell

Matt Swartz

Bruce Douglas